

Waste Action Alert

A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)
Rep. Tom Price (R-GA), RSC Chairman

October 28, 2009

Eliminate Pork In Federal “Save America’s Treasures” Program

Program or Item Targeted: Pork spending in the *Save America’s Treasures* program.

Annual Cost of Program or Item: \$13.8 million in earmarks for fiscal year 2009.

Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted: Established by Executive Order in 1998, the *Save America’s Treasures* program has been a popular spot for locating congressional pork. Billed as “a national effort to protect America’s threatened cultural treasures,” the program received \$30 million in fiscal year 2009. Nearly half of the program’s funding—\$13.8 million went to 45 earmarked grants awarded on a non-competitive basis, including:

- \$300,000 for the Bullock County Courthouse in Union Springs, Alabama
- \$250,000 for the Bremerton Public Library in Washington
- \$305,000 for the Bethel Town Hall in Bethel, Vermont

Apart from all being government buildings whose names start with the letter “B,” we can’t figure out why these three courthouses received over \$850,000 in earmarks while the courthouses in America’s other 3,138 counties were left out. Meanwhile, we understand that Charleston, Corpus Christi, and Chicago—all cities whose names start with the letter “C”—are lobbying hard this year.

Why This Program or Item Is Wasteful: While the deficit skyrockets and jobs suffer, the Interior appropriations bill - which includes funding for Save America’s Treasures - has ballooned a whopping 22% since 2008. Taxpayers, their children and grandchildren should not have to shoulder the burden for these earmarks or the national debt they incur.

MEMBER ACTION ITEM: Rep. Brady urges members to co-sponsor H.R. 393, the Federal Sunset Act of 2009, which would review government agencies for effectiveness and eliminate ineffective and wasteful programs (contact Randy, 6-7679).

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail brad.watson@mail.house.gov.

If you have a bill or amendment to highlight in the next Waste Action Alert please contact ryan.tronovitch@mail.house.gov.

Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

“The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it, working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn’t be paying for.”